



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Contact:

Cindie Perry, Intergovernmental & Communications Officer
(951) 826-5975

Riverside Asks for Public's Help in Shooting Investigation – Offers \$25,000 Reward

Riverside, California –Tues evening, Riverside City Council authorized a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the identity and apprehension of the individual(s) responsible for the shooting of Lareanz Simmons.

Last Thursday night, a well-liked Riverside student was shot by an unidentified suspect just outside his home in Riverside's eastside community. Lareanz Simmons, a Poly High School freshman was just 14 years old, and died today from his injuries. Lareanz had no gang affiliation and was a popular, caring kid who gave back to his community through his work with the Junior ROTC program.

"This is not a statistic – Lareanz was a son and grandson," said Mayor Ron Loveridge. "We are committed to providing every Riverside resident with the highest level of safety and security, and we will use every resource available to catch the individual(s) responsible for this tragic crime."

Ward 2 Councilman Andy Melendrez stated, "This community has been affected deeply by the terrible acts of a few and we appreciate the community's support and compassion for the Simmons family."

Investigators with the Riverside Police Department are working tirelessly to evaluate witness accounts and examine all leads, but no one has been arrested in connection with the shooting.

Riverside Police Chief Diaz said, "...offering a significant reward may entice someone to come forward with information that may lead to the identification and apprehension of the perpetrator(s)."

Ward 3 Councilman Rusty Bailey thanked students and Riverside Unified School District staff by saying, "We are proud of our Riverside students as they have shown great respect during vigils and demonstrations. We are also grateful to Riverside Unified School District, Poly H.S.

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Principal Wade Coe and his staff for their tremendous support for the students, families and faculty personally impacted by this event.”

For more information about the \$25,000 reward, contact Riverside Detective Sanfilippo at (951) 353-7105, or if you wish to remain anonymous, contact We Tip at 1(800)78-CRIME or 1(800) 782-7463.

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